

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

12 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Sophisticated Weapons Amendment to P.L. 90-137

1. Senator Stuart Symington (D., Mo.), as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, was a prime mover in placing a restriction in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1967 on sophisticated weapons for developing countries. The relatively flexible provision called for termination of assistance to a developing country when the President finds that funds provided under the Act are "diverted to military expenditures, or a recipient or purchasing country is diverting its own resources to unnecessary military expenditures, to a degree which materially interferes with its development..." (P.L. 90-137, § 301(f)(4))

2. The House later passed the Foreign Assistance Appropriations bill (H.R. 13893) with the so-called Conte-Long (Silvio O. Conte (R., Mass.) and Clarence D. Long (D., Md.) amendment which, with certain exceptions, flatly prohibited the use of military assistance funds (including the revolving fund) for "sophisticated weapons" for any underdeveloped country.

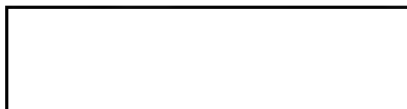
3. The Administration requested the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee to substitute the language of the "Symington amendment" to the authorization Act (P.L. 90-137) for the Conte-Long amendment. The Senate Committee amendment prohibited the use of funds for sophisticated weapons only "when the President finds that such funds or the recipient or purchasing country's own resources are being used for unnecessary military expenditures, to a degree which materially interferes with its development..." During the floor discussion of the bill in the Senate on December 7 it was explained that "The committee deleted the House language and inserted in lieu thereof the provision, very similar, which was included in the authorization act."

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4. Ultimately, the Conference Committee compromised by providing an outright prohibition, with certain exceptions, unless the President makes a determination that sophisticated weapons for underdeveloped countries are vital to the national security of the United States and reports this fact to the Congress.

5. The provisions on sophisticated weapons initially adopted by the House and Senate and ultimately adopted by the Congress are set forth in the attached.

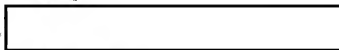


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